

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated August 17, 2004, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended the specification and claims as suggested by the Examiner. Informalities and spelling discrepancies have also been corrected.

In view of the foregoing amendments, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice J. Pirio", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: December 16, 2004

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